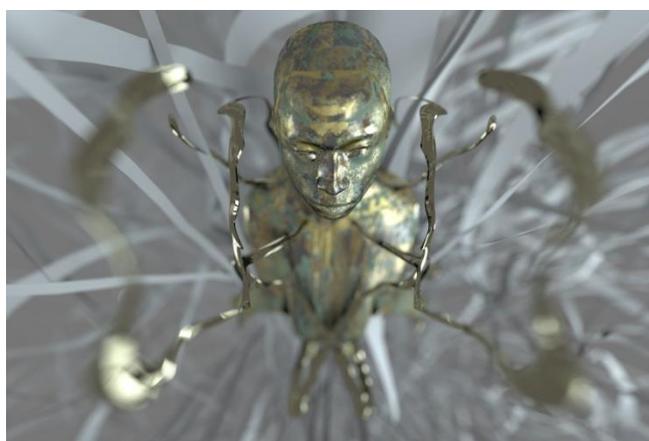


JERWOOD ARTS

Jerwood Collaborate!

A major new exhibition of collaborative works



Jerwood Collaborate!

2 October- 15 December 2019

Array | Keiken + George Jasper Stone | Languid Hands | Shy Bairns

In October, Jerwood Arts launches a major group exhibition presenting four new commissions by early-career artists working in collaborative and collective practices based across the UK.

Launching during Frieze Week 2019, *Jerwood Collaborate!* responds to research about the challenges faced by artists working in collaboration and provides a dedicated platform to support outstanding artist groups at a pivotal moment in their career. It will present a group show of ambitious new commissions alongside an accompanying events programme, contributing to critical dialogues about support for collaborative and collective practices in the visual arts sector.

Using moving image, activism, performance, installation and publishing, the exhibiting artists interrogate essential subjects that affect us as a society. This includes considerations of the im/possibility of Black Testimony, socio-political issues in Northern Ireland, fictional futures in the context of inequality and climate change, and demystifying creativity and the role of the artist today.

The selected artists for *Jerwood Collaborate!* are:

- **Array:** a collective based in Belfast which creates collaborative actions in response to socio-political issues affecting Northern Ireland. The group comprises of artists: Sighle Bhreatnach-Cashell, Sinéad Bhreatnach-Cashell, Alessia Cargnelli, Emma Campbell, Mitch Conlon, Clodagh Lavelle, Laura O'Connor, Grace McMurray, Stephen Millar and Thomas Wells.
- **Keiken + George Jasper Stone:** a collaboration between Keiken, founded in 2015 by artists Tanya Cruz, Hana Omori and Isabel Ramos, and CGI artist and content designer George Jasper Stone. Based in London and Penzance.
- **Languid Hands:** a London-based artistic and curatorial collaboration between DJ, filmmaker and programmer Rabz Lansiquot, and writer, facilitator and live art practitioner Imani Robinson.
- **Shy Bairns:** the collective practice of artists, designers and curators Izzy Kroese, George Gibson, Eleanor Haswell and Erin Blamire based in Manchester.

Array

Array's new installation *As Others See Us* is centred on three fictional characters drawn from the pre-Christian myths and folklore of ancient Ireland: 'The Sacred Cow', 'The Long Shadow' and 'The Morrigan'. Representing the past, present and future, and cross-bred with contemporary anxieties and fixations in the North of Ireland today, they have shape-shifted through the crowds at Belfast Pride to the banks of the River Thames in London. Documented through film, photography, sculpture and textiles, the characters lead visitors through the gallery which houses a dedicated archive and resource space that reflects historic and current activism in Northern Ireland around LGBTQ+ rights, feminism and anti-colonialism.

In December, Array will host a symposium at Jerwood Arts that expands on their collective research, opening the discussion to like-minded artists and activists from different generations to directly respond to the issues raised in the work, exploring the tensions and possible resolutions.

Keiken + George Jasper Stone

Keiken + George Jasper Stone's *Feel My Metaverse* is a CGI film, AR and immersive installation about a hyper-fictional future. The transauthorial narrative - a story made by multiple people - explores the daily lives of three characters 'Pando', 'O' and 'C', and how they cope with multiple bodies in various virtual and physical realities. Through a fictional space, they create ways to use technology as an emancipatory tool, relearning sensory understanding, ableness, and enabling a fluidity of expression.

Feel My Metaverse plays on our understanding of reality and the concept that we create our future through the stories we collectively believe in. The narrative critiques the disconnection of the monopolising desires of corporate and futurist visions, within the wider context of inequality and climate crisis facing humanity. Considering the current rate of 'progression' and the increasing fragility of shared belief systems, it contemplates how individuals can be required to trust and live in realities that they intuitively disagree with. This work raises questions about our communal responsibility to future societies, asking how we reconnect with the essence of humanity and nature, outliving the notion of 'I'.

For *Feel My Metaverse* Keiken + George Jasper Stone collaborate with Charlotte Oppenheim, Sakeema Crook, Linda Rocco and SECT, with sound by Khidja. The installation will be activated by a new performance featuring Sakeema Crook during Frieze Week 2019 on 3 October, bringing IRL forms and digital interventions into the installation itself.

Keiken + George Jasper Stone are also supported by Arts Council England.

Languid Hands

Languid Hands' single screen film is the first time that they will combine their respective practices - Imani Robinson's performance and Rabz Lansiquot's filmmaking - in a new work exploring the im/possibility of Black Testimony. This work considers the ontological status of Black people as objects, as commodities, as raw material. Referencing seminal black texts and artefacts alongside instances of contemporary anti-black violence, this work examines testimony as obscured, ignored and undermined. *Towards a Black Testimony: Prayer, Protest, Peace* borrows its subtitle from the third track on Max Roach's 1960 album, *We Insist!* featuring jazz vocalist Abbey Lincoln. Drawing on archival imagery, Black geographies, and the dying declarations of Black Martyrs, the film explores the complexities of truth, empathy, justice, the law, life and death for the Black Mass.

Towards a Black Testimony: Prayer, Protest, Peace is being developed in direct relation to a wider body of research supporting Languid Hands' residency this autumn at Stroom, Den Haag, NL, and will be shown as part of their exhibition of the same name. Languid Hands will take over Jerwood Lates on 29 November, presenting performance and conversation in relation to their research.

Shy Bairns

Shy Bairns' new work *Shy Bairns Fill The Void: Developing Our Creative Practice* looks at the often hidden process of artistic progression and makes it visible within the exhibition itself. Located in the heart of the gallery, the installation is centred around a new publication which documents the process of the group working together on various small development projects including learning new skills from each other, peers, and fellow practitioners across the UK. The title of the work playfully references Arts Council England's own development fund - *Developing Your Creative Practice* - and they aim to highlight the importance of artistic practices outside of exhibitions and finalised work: of community, fun and support in art making, and of artists as perpetually unskilled learners.

Within the exhibition the publication will be presented alongside a range of documentation and outcomes from the various activities, which visitors will be invited to interact with and take away.

Jerwood Collaborate! takes a non-institutional approach to selection, inviting 12 curators from across the UK to nominate outstanding artist collaborations and collectives who they felt would benefit from support at a pivotal point in their careers.

The nominating curators for *Jerwood Collaborate!* were selected for their innovative practices, geographical engagement and diverse knowledge of the UK art scene. The criteria for nomination was that artist groups should: consist of two or more members; be within the first five years of establishing their collaborative or collective practice; be based in the UK; and could be working with any medium or have a multidisciplinary practice.

The nominators were: **John Eng Kiet Bloomfield**, Curator at Wysing Arts Centre; **Seán Elder**, Researcher at Grand Union; **Cicely Farrer**, Programme Manager at Hospitalfield and Freelance Curator; **Cédric Fauq**, Curator at Nottingham Contemporary; **Vickie Fear**, Curator at Aspex Gallery and Independent Curator; **Louise Hobson**, Independent Curator and Producer; **Elinor Morgan**, Senior Curator at Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art (MIMA); **Jane Morrow**, Independent Curator and PhD Researcher; **Mother Tongue (Tiffany Boyle & Jessica Carden)**, Independent Curators; **Hannah Rose**, Curator at The Gallery, Plymouth College of Art; **Amanprit Sandhu**, former Programme Curator: Residencies and Public Programme at Camden Arts Centre; and **Zoe Watson**, Curator of the Holden Gallery.

21 artist collaborations and collectives were nominated and invited to submit a proposal with the final decision made by a selection panel comprising of: **Kelly Best**, artist; **Antonio Roberts**, artist and curator; **Harriet Cooper**, Head of Visual Arts (Interim), Jerwood Arts and **Lilli Geissendorfer**, Director, Jerwood Arts (Chair).

The selected artist collaborations and collectives developed their new commissions over a four-month period with financial, developmental and curatorial support from the Jerwood Arts' team.

The exhibition is curated by Harriet Cooper, Head of Visual Arts (Interim):

“By supporting dynamic early career artist collectives and collaborations to develop outstanding new work on their own terms Jerwood Collaborate! will open an energetic and timely dialogue about what it means to produce art in this way.

The commissioned artists all use different systems of creative collaboration to interrogate essential subjects that affect us as a society. Through moving image, activism, performance, installation and publishing they bring together collective concerns and create artworks that challenge us to become part of their conversation.

As the leading independent funder dedicated to supporting UK artists, curators and producers to develop and thrive, Jerwood Arts is delighted to launch this exhibition during Frieze London and to highlight the unique role of collaborative art practices in order to consider how the UK art sector can best support artists working collectively today.”

Please see Notes to Editors for full artist biographies

Exhibition listing:

Title: Jerwood Collaborate!
Dates: 2 October – 15 December 2019
Address: Jerwood Arts, 171 Union Street, Bankside, London, SE1 0LN
Opening Hours: Mon – Sat: 10am – 5pm / Sun 12 – 5pm
Open until 8pm on the last Friday of every month during exhibitions
Admission: Free
Nearest tube: Southwark, London Bridge or Borough
Website: jerwoodarts.org
Twitter: @JerwoodArts

–ENDS–

For further information about Jerwood Collaborate!, please contact Maggie Eckel and Harriet Clarke at Four Culture:

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Image credits

L-R: Array at Belfast Pride 2019, Belfast, 3 August 2019, Photo credits: Laura O'Connor/Array Studios; Feel My Metaverse, Keiken and George Jasper Stone, 2019. Courtesy the artist

Jerwood Arts

Jerwood Arts is the leading independent funder dedicated to supporting UK artists, curators and producers to develop and thrive. We enable transformative opportunities for individuals across art forms, supporting imaginative awards, bursaries, fellowships, projects, programmes and commissions. We present new work and bring people from across the arts together through our exhibitions and events in London, as well as across the UK. www.jerwoodarts.org

Jerwood Collaborate! Artist Biographies

Array is a collective based in Belfast whose create collaborative actions use a DIY sensibility in response to the socio-political issues affecting Northern Ireland. Array studios was established in 1994 by a group of early career artists intent on making a difference to the world of visual art in Belfast. Over the past 20 years Array has seen a vast number of artists come through the doors, some stay for a short while others settle for longer. The current group comprises 10 artists: Sighle Bhreatnach-Cashell, Sinéad Bhreatnach-Cashell, Alessia Cargnelli, Emma Campbell, Mitch Conlon, Clodagh Lavelle, Laura O'Connor, Grace McMurray, Stephen Millar and Thomas Wells. The studio itself is funded by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. arraystudiosbelfast.com

Keiken, meaning 'experience' in Japanese, is a hybrid practice founded in 2015 by artists Tanya Cruz, Hana Omori, Isabel Ramos and collaborators. Based in London and Penzance, they use moving-image, new media installation, virtual/augmented reality and performative lectures to test-drive impending futures in the realms of the 'phygital' (physical and digital). When working collectively Keiken become part of a fluid entity, an open-source ecosystem: with interchangeable roles, collaborators shape, challenge and transform projects. Keiken have toured their performative lecture Honey, I'm Data! at IMPAKT Festival (Utrecht) and Hervisions at LUX Moving Image and Space Art + Technology (London). In March 2019 Keiken were also part of the panel Technology and its Intersections at ICA (London). They have exhibited and curated at CTM and Transmediale's Vorspiel festival (Berlin), MIRA Festival (Barcelona) and U Studio at Tate St Ives. [www.instagram.com/ keiken /](https://www.instagram.com/keiken/)

George Jasper Stone is a CGI artist and content designer based in London who collaborates with artists and designers to produce short films, live visuals and graphics. His work is characterised by constructing vignettes and scenes, that blend digital experiences with physical entities using intuitive, digital processes. Holding the algorithmic with the real world that interlinks fantasy and reality, he transcodes data from these physical environments to digital landscapes. www.instagram.com/georgejasperstone/

Languid Hands is a London-based artistic and curatorial collaboration between DJ, filmmaker and programmer Rabz Lansiquot, and writer, facilitator and live art practitioner Imani Robinson. They began collaborating together in 2015, through their work with the collective sorryoufeeluncomfortable (SYFU), informed by ongoing explorations in black and queer studies, black creative practice, black liberatory praxis and queer methodologies. SYFU projects included a British Council funded research trip to Kenya to begin building relationships with queer Kenyan artists to develop an exchange residency; co-curating the BBZBLKBK Alternative Graduate Show 2018 aimed at promoting work by artists who identify as queer womxn, trans and non-binary people of Black Ancestry at Copeland Gallery, London; and curating (BUT) WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT WHITE SUPREMACY?, a group exhibition at Many Studios as part of Glasgow International Festival 2018. Languid Hands are currently in residence at Raven Row, London, U.K. and are curating two projects this season: Towards a Black Testimony: Prayer, Protest, Peace at Stroom, Den Haag, NL, and away, completely, a group show at Narrative Projects, London, U.K.

Shy Bairns is the collective practice of artists, designers and curators Izzy Kroese, George Gibson, Eleanor Haswell and Erin Blamire, based in Manchester. Since 2016, they have been working together on a responsive programme of zines, exhibitions and workshops. They are interested in interrogating the accessibility and interactivity of contemporary art, and though their practice aim to create a conversation between exhibition/artwork and viewer, rather than via a traditional one-way approach. They use DIY publishing practices, utilising zines, print workshops and installations to invite audience participation and to create collaborative works. For Manchester International Festival 2019 Shy Bairns were commissioned to create An Appointment at the End of the world, a David Lynch fan publication to accompany David Lynch at Home, Home, Manchester alongside running a public workshop. In November 2019 they will be curating Fanspeak at Castlefield Gallery, Manchester, UK. Recent group exhibitions have included Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2018 at South London Gallery, London, U.K and Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool, U.K; Festival of the Not, Star and Shadow Cinema, Newcastle, UK; and Multipack, Bunker Gallery, Manchester, U.K. shybairns.co.uk